EXHIBIT 8
DATE 3/23/2011
SB 329

Optimizing Resources

The purpose of the survey is to collect input from school districts in the RESA4U Education Service Region (Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Granite, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Madison, Meagher, Park, Powell and Silver Bow Counties - see website www.resa4u.org) regarding the prioritization of services you might use in your school district. A group of school districts (superintendents and board members) in the Greater Gallatin Valley area have been working together for over two years to develop a good list of items that we might be able to share in an effective and efficient way to improve student learning and save money. The list provided was established from brainstormed ideas in October of 2009 and revised by the 4 Rivers Superintendents Group at their March 2, 2011 meeting.

We are collecting input from both trustees and superintendents. The information will be used by the Optimization Task Force to determine our next steps. Thank you for your time to complete the survey.

Please rate each item listed in the 8 sections below, prioritizing services you might use in your school district.

- Check Already Implementing if your district has already implemented this in some capacity.
- Then indicate what priority level for your district: Not a Priority; Low Priority; Neutral; High Priority; or Very High Priority.

Optimizing Resources

School District Name:

County:

Position

◯ Superintendent   ◯ Trustee

A. Create County-Wide Career/Vo-Tech Center

☐ Already Implementing   ☐ Not a Priority   ☐ Low Priority   ☐ Neutral   ☐ High Priority   ☐ Very High Priority

B. Share Buildings for Programs Like Pre-School, Full-Time Kindergarten

☐ Already Implementing   ☐ Not a Priority   ☐ Low Priority   ☐ Neutral   ☐ High Priority   ☐ Very High Priority

C. Create Communication/Coordination Plan to: (or Look at Feasibility of)

1. Share Professional Development

☐ Already Implementing   ☐ Not a Priority   ☐ Low Priority   ☐ Neutral   ☐ High Priority   ☐ Very High Priority

Comment Box: List needs for professional development/inservice in your district.

2. Pupil Instruction Related (PIR) Professional Development Offerings

☐ Already Implementing   ☐ Not a Priority   ☐ Low Priority   ☐ Neutral   ☐ High Priority   ☐ Very High Priority

3. Grant Opportunities

☐ Already Implementing   ☐ Not a Priority   ☐ Low Priority   ☐ Neutral   ☐ High Priority   ☐ Very High Priority

4. Regular Discussions for K-8 Feeder Schools and Transition

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

5. Grade Level/Discipline Level Meetings

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

6. Coordinate Speakers

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

7. Coordinate Calendars

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

D. Library Purchasing Pool

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

A. Create Central Facility for Shared Curriculum Resources (i.e., Science Kits, English as a Second Language (ESL) Resources)

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

B. Create County/Region-Wide Curriculum Consortium

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

C. Look at Feasibility of Communication/Coordination Structure to:

1. Coordinate Curriculum Adoption Schedules

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

2. Bulk Order Curriculum Materials

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

3. Better Coordinate Programs such as Language, Arts, Business

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

4. Share/Reassess Grading/Credit Policies to Achieve Consistency

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

5. Share Local Assessments/Tests

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

A. Form Food Purchasing Cooperative - Milk, Local Farmers, Ranchers (Farm to School)

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

B. Explore Bus Route Sharing/Cooperation

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

C. Explore (Bid) Bulk Fuel Purchasing

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

D. Look at Feasibility of Coordination, Communication to:

1. Share & Plan Meal Menus

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

2. Hold County/Regional Cook Meetings

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

3. Share Ideas for Encouraging Free & Reduced Lunch Applications

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

4. Make Equipment Availability Known

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

A. Form an Energy Purchasing Cooperative

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

B. Form Bulk Supply Purchasing Pool - Especially Paper Products, Light Bulbs, Trash Bags

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

C. Create Area Performing Arts Center

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

D. Capital Project Planning Assistance

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

E. Coordinate/Communicate - Head Custodians to:

1. Conduct Obsolete Equipment Sale Auction

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

2. Create Regional Resource Directory (i.e., School Design Plans)

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

3. Share Contracted Service Providers - Share Bids

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

4. Share Areas of Expertise/Ideas Between Custodians

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

5. Share Equipment Used Periodically

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

6. Coordinate Projects & Services Where & When Possible

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

7. Explore/Share Energy Efficiency, Alternative Energy Ideas

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

8. Share Community Use of Facilities Ideas, Procedures, Practices

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

9. Common Trainings for Custodians

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

A. Explore Plans/Agreements for Transfer of Special Needs Students Who Cannot be Accommodated in Rural Districts

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

B. Explore Shared Data Warehousing (Electronic student data i.e., test scores and behavior)

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

C. Form Regional Special Needs Parent-Teacher Associations (i.e., PTA, PTO, PAC)

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

D. Explore Feasibility of Communication/Coordination for/to:

1. Gifted Education - Share Ideas, Resources, Programs, Evaluation Criteria, Teachers

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

2. Parent Groups - Share Ideas, Resources

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

3. Share Techniques for Special Needs Students

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

4. Share Ideas for Utilizing Community Resources

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

Optimizing Resources

A. Explore Areas to Co-op in Sports

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

B. Share/Coordinate Buses for Sports/Extra-Curricular Activities

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

C. Explore Eliminating School Sports and Let other Organizations Control (i.e., Lions Club)

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

D. Explore Areas to Co-op for Clubs

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

E. Explore Ways to Take Advantage of Local Competition Opportunities (i.e., Robotics, Destination Imagination, Science Fair, etc.)

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

F. Communicate/Coordinate for/to:

1. Athletic Directors - Get Together, Share Ideas

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

2. "Rural" School Governing Body (i.e., Montana High School Association (MHSA))

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

3. Coordinate Sports Camps

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

4. Share Specialized Equipment

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

5. Share Parent Driving Issues (i.e., insurance, policies, rules for parents transporting students)

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

6. Share Policies, Rules, Procedures

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

A. Distance Learning - Develop, Seek Start-Up, Share Approaches, Equipment, Advanced Placement (AP), Credit Recovery

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

B. Software/Hardware Purchasing Pools

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

C. Create Plan to Share "Site" Licenses

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

D. Communicate/Coordinate for/to:

1. Share Internet Filtering Protection Approaches

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

2. Enhance Offerings in Professional Development, Integration, Curriculum

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

3. Share Maintenance

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

4. Technology Coordinators Meet Regularly; Purchasing "Point" Person

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

5. Share Technology Personnel
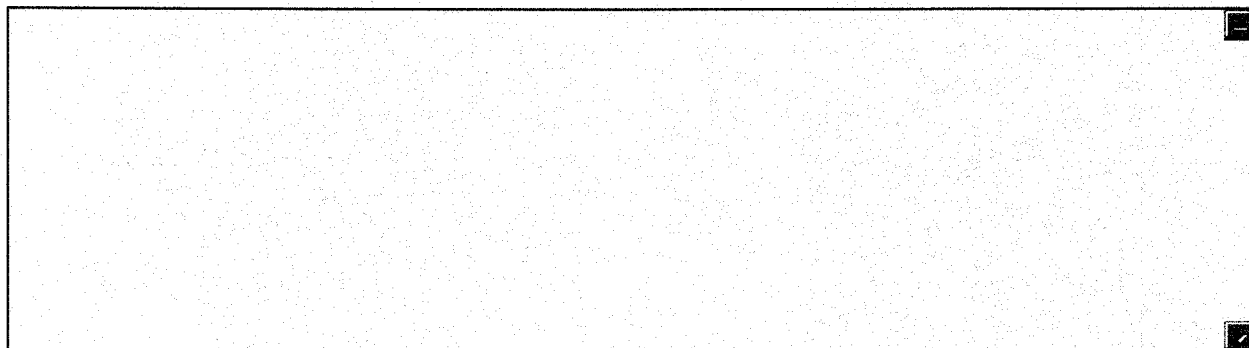
☐ Already Implementing   ☐ Not a Priority   ☐ Low Priority   ☐ Neutral   ☐ High Priority   ☐ Very High Priority

Comment Box: List needs for technology in your district.

Optimizing Resources

A. Form Health Insurance Pool (Regional/Statewide)

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

B. Form Preventive Health/Wellness Cooperative Statewide or Regional

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

C. Explore Pros & Cons Consolidation of School Districts

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

D. Common Posting of Meetings, Job Vacancies, Advertising in Legals

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

E. Centralized Human Resources

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

F. Explore What Business Services Could be Centralized (i.e., Payroll)

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

G. Clearinghouse for Substitutes

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

H. Common Training for Secretarial Staff

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

I. Common Staff Supervision/Evaluation Process/Tools

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

Optimizing Resources

J. Stable Funding - Finance for 2011:

1. Department of Revenue - Taxable Value - Appraisals Done Sooner

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

2. Address Delinquent and Protested Taxes

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

3. Ability to Increase Bonding Capacity

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

4. Stabilize Funding Formula

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

5. Pursue New Revenue Sources (i.e., Centrally Assessed Taxation)

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

6. Reintroduce Legislation Allowing Impact Fees for Schools

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

7. Pursue Issues of Districts with Little Commercial Tax Base Causing Parents to Work in One District and Live in Another

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

K. Explore Abbreviated School Year, Extended Year - How to Not Build More Buildings - Alternative Ways of Schooling

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

L. Look at Ways to Invite/Increase/Encourage Home Schoolers to Participate in Public School

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

M. Explore Administrative Responsibilities to Create Efficiencies

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

N. Look at Ways to Share Policies and Procedures

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

O. Personnel:

1. Find Ways to Share Counselors and other Part-Time Personnel in Order to Retain Staff

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

2. Coordinate Classified Staff Trainings

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

P. School Boards:

1. Regional Trainings, i.e., Best Practices for Boards

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

2. Trustees Meet to Continue Talks About Issues/Preparation for Legislative Sessions

☐ Already Implementing ☐ Not a Priority ☐ Low Priority ☐ Neutral ☐ High Priority ☐ Very High Priority

3. Visit Other Board Meetings

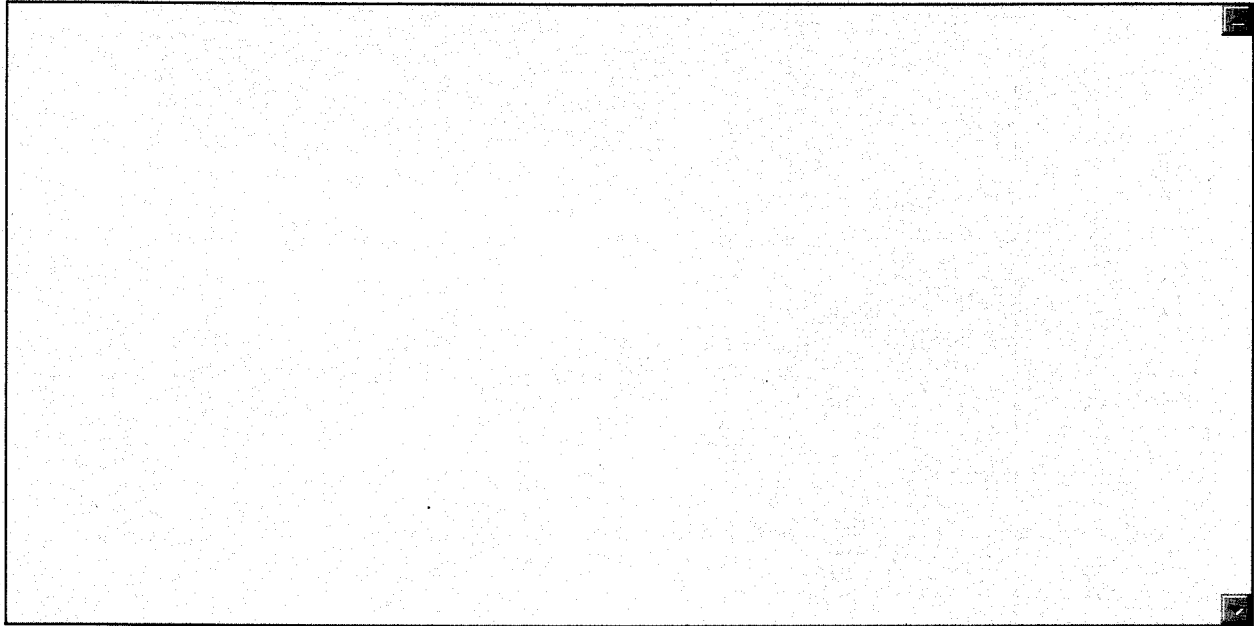☐ Already Implementing   ☐ Not a Priority   ☐ Low Priority   ☐ Neutral   ☐ High Priority   ☐ Very High Priority

Optimizing Resources

Please list any items that would be a very high priority for your district, that have not been included in this list.
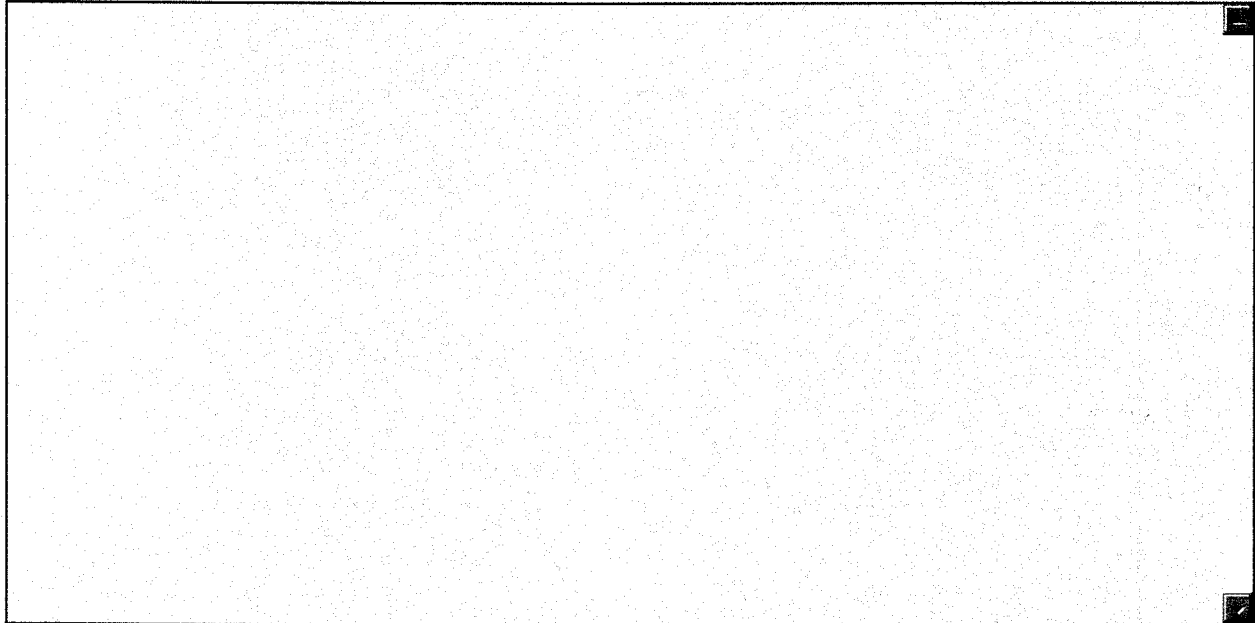
Additional Items:

Should services be available to your district *A la carte*, **i.e., paying a fee for service rendered (curriculum development, professional development, custodial, technology, etc.); by** *Membership Fee*, **i.e. paying a fee on a sliding scale (like based on ANB) to access services; or a** *Combination of Both*?

○ A la carte   ○ Membership Fee   ○ Combination of Both

If you have another idea, or need to expand on your answer, please describe below:

Given all of your highest priority items, what would you be willing to budget annually to receive quality access to those services?

○ $1 - 5,000   ○ $15,001 - 20,000

○ $5,001 - 10,000   ○ $20,001 +

○ $10,001 - 15,000

Optimizing Resources

Please add any additional comments that you want to share: